

RESPONSE UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.114
EXPEDITED PROCEDURE REQUESTED
EXAMINING GROUP 1725
PATENT

Customer No. 22,852
Application No.: 09/367,060
Filed: August 6, 1999
Attorney Docket No. 4724.0089-00

REMARKS

By the present Amendment, Applicants amend claim 1 to more appropriately claim the invention. No new matter has been added. Upon entry of this Amendment, claims 1-34 remain pending with claims 1-5 being under consideration and claims 6-34 being withdrawn as drawn to a non-elected invention.

In the Final Office Action dated July 17, 2003, the Examiner rejected claims 1-5 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,790,620 to *Okazaki et al.*

This rejection is respectfully traversed because *Okazaki* does not disclose each and every one of the claimed elements. Applicants therefore request that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) be withdrawn.

To anticipate claims 1-5 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e), *Okazaki*, taken individually, must disclose each and every element recited in claims 1-5. See M.P.E.P. § 2131 (8th Ed. 2001).

Okazaki discloses a laser processing method carried out by irradiating a surface through a laser beam irradiating apparatus. See Abstract. *Okazaki's* laser beam apparatus comprises a pulse laser device, a beam strength-adjusting device, and a mechanism for adjusting a spot diameter and a multiplexing ratio of an irradiated beam. See *id.*

Claim 1 is directed to "a laser-beam emitting head for irradiating a portion to be machined with laser beams outputted from a laser unit, said laser-beam emitting head

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comprising," *inter alia*, "a reflecting mirror for irradiating the portion to be machined with the converged laser beams, wherein the reflecting mirror is located behind the converging lens on the downstream side of the light advancing direction."

In contrast, *Okazaki* does not teach at least "a reflecting mirror for irradiating the portion to be machined with the converged laser beams, wherein the reflecting mirror is located behind the converging lens on a downstream side of a light advancing direction," as recited in claim 1. Instead, *Okazaki* teaches a converging combination lens 76 for converging laser beam 72 after galvano-mirror 55 redirects laser beam 72. See Fig. 15 and col. 16, ll. 57-67, col. 18, ll. 40-55.

For at least these reasons, *Okazaki* fails to disclose each and every element recited in independent claim 1.

Claims 2-5 depend from claim 1 and include all the elements thereof. Thus, claims 2-5 are not anticipated at least based on such dependency and for at least the same reasons discussed with respect to allowable independent claim 1.

In view of the foregoing remarks, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and reexamination of this application and the timely allowance of the pending claims.

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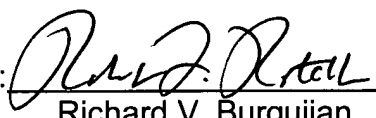
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Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to our deposit account 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: December 9, 2003

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